Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0010] as follows:

[0010] These and other objects of the present invention may be achieved by a demodulator for demodulating a modulated signal waveform in a data communication system, comprising: a phase tracking loop tracking the phase of said modulated signal waveform and having an inner block decoder configured to decode a set of vector pairs of the modulated signal waveform at a decode rate to generate associated codewords and phase estimates, wherein a group of data symbols consisting of the first data symbols of the modulated signal waveform are run backwards through the ~~phrase~~ phase tracking loop; and an outer block decoder and which utilizes and corrects only codewords associated with symbols after the group of data symbols consisting of the first data symbols of the modulated signal waveform. The outer block decoder receives all of the groups of data symbols, but there will probably be fewer errors in the first group of data symbols than there would have been if the data was not run backwards.

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